

February 11, 2025



Comrades and Auxiliary Members,

As members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Auxiliary, we are bound by the principles and guidelines set forth in our National Bylaws. One of the most fundamental aspects of our organizational structure is the adherence to the chain of command, which ensures that all issues and concerns are addressed at the most appropriate and effective level.

It is imperative that all members, Posts, and Auxiliaries first seek resolution of concerns through their respective Districts and Departments before escalating matters to National Headquarters or National Officers. Our Department Commanders and Auxiliary Department Presidents are entrusted with the responsibility to oversee and manage issues within their jurisdictions. They possess the experience, knowledge, and authority to handle concerns efficiently and in accordance with our bylaws, policies, and procedures.

By following this structured approach, we accomplish several key objectives:

1. **Efficiency and Expediency** – Addressing issues at the District and Department levels allows for quicker resolution, as these leaders are familiar with local circumstances and can respond in a timely manner.
2. **Preservation of Organizational Integrity** – Ensuring adherence to the chain of command fosters unity and respect within our organization, reinforcing the effectiveness of our leadership structure.
3. **Reduction of Unnecessary Burdens** – National Headquarters and National Officers handle strategic and overarching matters affecting the entire organization. Resolving issues at the local level minimizes the need for their involvement in matters that can and should be addressed by District and Department leaders.
4. **Empowerment of Leadership** – Trusting and supporting our Department Commanders and Auxiliary Department Presidents in their duties strengthens their ability to lead and uphold the values of the VFW and its Auxiliary.

All members are reminded that bypassing the proper channels disrupts the structure designed to serve our organization effectively. Should a matter remain unresolved after all proper avenues have been exhausted at the District and Department levels, then escalation to National Headquarters may be appropriate. However, the vast majority of concerns can and should be managed by those closest to the issue.

We appreciate your cooperation and commitment to ensuring the integrity and efficiency of our organization. By working together and following the proper channels, we can continue to serve our veterans, their families, and our communities with the excellence that defines the VFW and its Auxiliary.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan West".

Dan West  
Adjutant General

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ann Panteleakos".

Ann Panteleakos  
Auxiliary National Secretary-Treasurer

Distribution:

Department Commander/President  
Department Senior Vice Commander/Senior Vice President  
Department Junior Vice Commander/Junior Vice President  
Department Adjutant/Secretary  
Department Quartermaster/Treasurer

#### NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

406 W. 34th Street  
Kansas City, MO 64111  
Office 816.756.5390  
Fax 816.968.1157

#### WASHINGTON OFFICE

200 Maryland Ave., N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20002  
Office 202.543.2259  
Fax 202.543.6719

info@vfw.org  
www.vfw.org

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

# VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

January 14, 2025

## **OFFICIAL RULING – Property Ownership**

At the 2024 VFW Auxiliary National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, the **VFW Auxiliary National Bylaw, Article IX, Sec. 920 – Property Ownership** was passed. To resolve any confusion, I have made this official ruling on the interpretation of this Bylaw.

As stated in **Sec. 920, B.**, *For the purposes of these Bylaws, personal property is defined as tangible and intangible property that is moveable, even if a small amount of disassembly is required to move. C., For the purposes of these Bylaws, real property is defined as land and permanent structures on the land.* Therefore, be it known that:

- Auxiliaries may own personal property, **per Sec. 920, A.**
- When personal property is placed in a VFW Post building, there shall be a clear understanding of who owns the property, how it will be used and disposed of if the VFW Post and/or VFW Auxiliary goes defunct.
- This understanding shall be in writing and signed by both the VFW and the VFW Auxiliary.
- Any items without a clear, signed statement of ownership and usage, will be the property of the VFW Post.
- Items donated to the VFW Post prior to the Bylaw change, are the property of the VFW Post, unless there is a previously signed document stating otherwise.
- Additionally, the Auxiliary may not charge the VFW Post rent to use items purchased by the Auxiliary that are kept at the VFW Post building (e.g., tables, chairs, etc.), unless a written agreement exists between the VFW Auxiliary and the VFW Post for the rental of these items.
- Any shed or building purchased by the Auxiliary and placed on the VFW Post property shall belong to the VFW Post and not the Auxiliary. The VFW Post as owner pays the taxes and insurance on such property. Any ad valorem tax or any other taxes are the responsibility of the owner of the property.
- The exception to this is that Auxiliary specific and/or Auxiliary branded items (e.g., Auxiliary Charter, Auxiliary Flags, Color Bearer Flags, Auxiliary Banners, Auxiliary Plaques, Auxiliary Awards, etc.) remain the property of the Auxiliary.

The goal is teamwork. We encourage all VFW Auxiliaries and VFW Posts to work together. Clear communication is the key.

By Order of

Brenda Bryant  
National President  
BB:AP: cb

UNWAVERING SUPPORT FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™